

TESTIMONY ON SB 120 (AMERICAN HERITAGE ACT),
SB 121 (PATRIOT WEEK) AND
SB 423 (GOOD CITIZENSHIP BILL)

LEAH WARREN
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Good morning Chairperson Lyons and other members of the committee.

I am Leah Warren, a co-founder of Patriot Week. I am currently a 9th grader at Seaholm High School, an honorary board member of Patriot Week Inc, and an avid runner and member of our forensics team

Back in the Fall, I, as well as all my classmates in 9th grade and around the State, sat down one early morning and took the MEAP. As a 9th grader, one of the subjects tested this year was American History and civics, a subject that I had not been formally taught in school since 7th grade. Although I get the luxury of being exposed to knowledge about American history every-day, not all of my classmates are as fortunate. After taking the exam and talking with my friends about its difficulty, I was surprised to hear that each one didn't feel confident in taking the American History and civics section and complained about knowing only a few answers.

As a student who has experienced what it is like to feel unprepared for a test, I understood my friends' frustration and knew that if we had been re-exposed to American history not only in 7th grade but year after year - beginning in kindergarten, they would have had a much better chance of doing well.

But better test scores is not the only reason why schools should be encouraged to teach about civics and history year after year. A key purpose of educating students is to make sure that we are informed and ready to be active citizens in our communities. If we are not learning fundamental information about the Constitution, civics, and history, our generation is at an extreme disadvantage. If we fail to understand our freedom and our unalienable rights, it is just a matter of time before they no longer exist.

Luckily, not all hope is lost. We still have an opportunity to save our generation from downfall by making sure all of our students across the State of Michigan are informed about American history, civics and the Constitution throughout ever year of their education process. Not only will our tests scores rise on the MEAP but our ability to understand and defend our liberties.

Please approve these bills to help generation after generation of American citizens understand what makes us the greatest nation in history.

Thank you.